laboratories @ Rs.5 lakh per NGO. A sum of Rs,3,42,3937/- has been released during 2007-08 to M/s. Sarpit Sewa Sansthan, C-118, Mayapuri, Kumargali, Ajabpur Kalan, Dehradun (Uttarakhand).

2. National Project on Organic Farming: An amount of Rs.329.52 lakh has been released to Director of Agriculture, Government of Uttarakhand during 2006-07. An amount of Rs. 1.44 lakh and Rs.0.37 lakh has been released to Shri Jagdamba Samiti, Vinod Market, Dehradun Road, Rishikesh(UA) and Amber Samaj Sewi Sansthan, Vill. Bank, The. Kitchha, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar(UA), respectively during 2006-07.

During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 22.17 lakh has been released to Uttarakhand Organic Commodity Board, Dehradun. Further, Himalayan Institute for Rural Awakening, Ugrasen Nagar, Haridwar Road, Rishikesh (UA), Gramin Vikas Takniki Sansthan, Vill. Saini, Distt. Uttarkashi(UA) and Mahila Utthan Awam Sansthan Bhramkhal Uttarkashi (UA) have been released an amount of Rs.1.92 lakh, Rs.0.10 lakh and Rs.0.10 lakh, respectively. No fund released to any agency during 2008-09.

(B) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

There is no direct involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations in implementation of various schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, though in some schemes cooperatives, federations/self- help groups are involved through State Governments in implementing these schemes.

(C) Department of Agricultural Research and Education

Department of Agricultural Research and Education/Indian Council of Agricultural Research operates Krishi Vigyan Kendras(KVKs) through NGOs. No NGO-KVK is granted any financial assistance in Uttarakhand.

Decline in Agriculture land

3238. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the extent of cultivable land in the country is rapidly declining due to classification changed from agricultural zone to industrial zone, commercial-zone and institutional-zone, etc.;

(b) whether Government is visualizing the impending danger to the agricultural produce in the country and the food security;

(c) the initiatives taken by Government to contain the rapid declining of the extent of both wet and dry agricultural land for other purposes; and

(d) the steps which Government considers to boost the agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. As per available estimates , the extent of cultivable land has marginally decreased from

182.88 million ha. of 2004-05 to 182.71 million ha. in 2006-07, mainly due to increase in area under non-agricultural uses such as urbanization, roads, industries, housing etc.

(b) to (d) Government of India is aware of the impending dangers to the agricultural produce and there are various measures in place to ensure food security across the country. With a view to prevent land degradation and for improving the productivity of the land under agriculture, Government of India is implementing various schemes/ programmes namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) etc. across the country. Parts of such developed lands under these programmes are brought under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses. Besides, three major initiatives namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) have been launched to enhance the productivity of agricultural land and sustaining food security across the country. It is due to these interventions that despite the marginal decrease in the extent of cultivable land, foodgrain production has increased from 198.36 Million Tonnes in 2004-05 to 230.78 Million Tonnes in 2007-08.

As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land falls under the purview of the State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring suitable Act/Legislation to protect use of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes. With a view to prevent the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes and sustaining food security of the country, the National Policy for Farmers (NPC), 2007 has recommended that prime farmland must be conserved for agriculture. Only under exceptional circumstances, the agencies that are provided with agricultural land for non-agricultural projects should compensate for treatment and full development of equivalent degraded / wastelands elsewhere. Further, the policy also envisages that for non-agricultural purposes, as far as possible, land with low biological potential for farming would be earmarked and allocated. State Governments have been advised to earmark lands with low biological potential such as uncultivable land, land affected by salinity, acidity, etc., for non-agricultural development activities, including industrial and construction activities. In addition, the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 formulated by Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources came into effect on 31.10.2007. The policy envisages that only the minimum area of land commensurate with the purpose of a project may be acquired. Also, as far as possible, projects may be set up on wastelands, degraded lands or un-irrigated lands. Acquisition of agricultural land for non-agricultural uses in the projects may be kept to the minimum; multi-cropped lands may be avoided to the extent possible for such purposes and acquisition of irrigated land, if unavoidable, may be kept to the minimum.